

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1293  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, MARR, MU, US  
SUBJECT: OMAN REQUEST FOR NAVAL TRAINING ASSISTANCE

1. DURING COURSE OF JULY 10 CALL ON DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER SAYYID FAHAR, HE RATHER FORMALLY STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN DIRECTED BY SULTAN QABOOS TO RAISE WITH EMBASSY OMANI INTEREST IN ARRANGING FOR TRAINING IN US OF OMANI NAVY PERSONNEL. (COMMANDER OF SON EARLIER HAD ALERTED EMBASSY OF MAY 14 MEETING IN WHICH THIS MATTER DISCUSSED.) FAHAR THEN CALLED IN HIS BRITISH EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, WHO REFERRED TO TYPED NOTES AND OUTLINED REQUEST.

2. OMANIS PROPOSE TO SEND 10 POTENTIAL OFFICERS TO US, HOPEFULLY BY END OF 1975. ALTHOUGH EDUCATIONAL LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS ADMITTEDLY WOULD BE LOW (GENERALLY ONLY PRIMARY SCHOOL), APTITUDES WOULD BE HIGH ENOUGH FOR THEM TO TAKE YEAR'S INTENSIVE COURSE IN ENGLISH, FOLLOWING WHICH THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN "BASIC MATH" AND "NAVALIZATION" COURSES SUCH AS COASTAL NAVIGATION, ETC. SON WOULD CONTEMPLATE PROGRAM LASTING AS LONG AS 2 YEARS IN US.

3. AT SAME TIME, WOULD LIKE TO SEND UP TO 20 ENLISTED MEN FOR TRAINING. THESE WOULD PARTICIPATE JOINTLY WITH OFFICER CANDIDATES IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE COURSES. THEREAFTER, THEY WOULD PURSUE TRAINING IN SUCH AREAS AS DIESEL MECHANICS, COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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4. FAHAR STATED THAT OMANGOV HOPED THAT USG COULD "HELP" BY GRANTING THIS TRAINING AT MINIMAL EXPENSE TO SON. HOWEVER, OMANGOV WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO COST OF PROGRAM. CHARGE AND COL. HOBBS (NEA/RA WHO PARTICIPATED IN DISCUSSIONS) OUTLINED FACT THAT NO MAP PRESENTLY EXISTS FOR OMAN AND THAT PROGRAM WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE EVEN IF FINANCING AVAILABLE, SINCE IT MIGHT REQUIRE TAILORING A COURSE SPECIFICALLY FOR OMANI NEEDS; ON OTHER HAND, IT THEORETICALLY MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOME OF PLANNING AND PREPARATION GOING INTO CURRENT USG PROGRAM FOR SAUDI NAVY. (AT THIS POINT, SAYYID FAHAR INTERRUPTED TO STATE THAT OMANGOV NOT INTERESTED IN "SECOND-HAND" INSTRUCTION; WE TOLD HIM THAT IF THIS IDEA PROVED FEASIBLE, IT WOULD BE FOR TRAINING IN US BY AMERICANS.)

5. FINALLY, FAHAR STATED THAT EMBASSY SHORTLY WILL RECEIVE FONOFFICE NOTE OUTLINING PROPOSAL AND REQUESTING US ASSISTANCE.

6. DURING SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH CSAF AND DEPUTY COMMANDER OF SON, IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT OBJECTIVE IN FIRST INSTANCE WOULD BE TO PRODUCE TECHNICALLY PREPARED EQUIVALENT OF MIDSHIPMAN AT END OF STAY IN US. (OMANIS RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT FACT OF VERY GREAT EDUCATIONAL GAP WHICH WOULD PERSIST.) IN REGARD TO ENLISTED TECHNICIANS, VENUE OF SPECIALIZATION TRAINING COULD BE DETERMINED AFTER COMPLETION OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TRAINING, ALTHOUGH CSAF STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF LEAVING PARTICIPANTS MORE OR LESS IN PLACE ONCE THEY HAD ACCULTURATED TO A PARTICULAR ENVIRONMENT.

7. COMMENT: BOTH IN DISCUSSION WITH FAHAR AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH CSAF AND DEPUTY COMMANDER OF SON WE TOOK DEFINITELY PESSIMISTIC VIEW CONCERNING DIFFICULTIES IN ARRANGING SUCH PROGRAM. AT SAME TIME, WE DID AGREE TO EXPLORE SUBJECT WITH WASHINGTON. SINCE GENERAL TOPIC RAISED DURING SULTAN QABOOS' JANUARY VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AND SINCE SECRETARY OFFERED UN-SPECIFIED NAVAL TRAINING (SEE NEA/ARP JANUARY 13 MEMCON WITH MR. TONY REEVE OF UK EMBASSY), OMANIS PROBABLY ASSUME, WITH SOME LOGIC, THAT USG WILL BE RESPONSIVE. WE WISH TO REVIEW MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR BEFORE MAKING FIRM EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION.

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8. ACTION REQUESTED: PENDING RECEIPT OF FONOFF NOTE, WE ARE UNDER NO PRESSURE TO REPLY TO THIS OMANI INITIATIVE. THEREAFTER, THEY PRESUMABLY WILL EXPECT REASONABLY QUICK (AND, INDEED, POSITIVE) RESPONSE. ACCORDINGLY, SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKE NECESSARY STUDY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TIMELY RESPONSE.

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